

THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20505

Office of Legislative Counsel

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Drugs

Mr. Edward Stephenson
General Government Division
General Accounting Office
Washington, D.C. 20548

Dear Mr. Stephenson:

We have completed our review of your draft report entitled, "Drug Control Efforts in South America Having Limited Success-- Future Outlook also Dim." We have found the report to be well written and accurate overall, although we strongly recommend that the following changes be incorporated in your final report.

The report emphasizes the paucity of usable tactical narcotics intelligence information and the lack of analysis of the information that is collected. The report also gives the impression that DEA and CIA share equal responsibility for the collection of tactical narcotics information which is not, in fact, the case. The CIA emphasis is on the collection of strategic intelligence information such as trends, sources of supply and foreign governmental corruption. We collect and report tactical information, generally speaking, as a by-product of our field operations which are themselves designed to gather information to be utilized in the formulation of narcotics control policies. It is our recommendation that the sentence, "In addition, the CIA provides drug intelligence to DEA," appearing in your report on page 15 be deleted and the following substituted:

"CIA's primary focus is on the collection of strategic intelligence information of use in the formulation of narcotics control policies. The Agency also provides useful tactical narcotics information to DEA concerning foreign traffickers and their supporting networks."

STAT With regard to the lack of analysis of narcotics information, CIA and DEA are currently working on a joint effort in Washington to produce a series of in-depth profiles on major cocaine trafficking networks. The first of these studies, [REDACTED]

STAT [REDACTED] has been forwarded to the field. We recommend that following "Where intelligence data had been gathered, for the most part, it had not

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been analyzed," which appears on page 15 of the report a footnote be added as follows:

"It is encouraging to note, however, that CIA and DEA are currently working on a joint effort in Washington to analyze and collate all of the available information concerning the most prominent cocaine networks trafficking in South America. This material is being included in a series of in-depth profiles of the major cocaine trafficking networks to support ongoing investigations."

We wish to note an apparent typographical error on page 16, line two. The word "collected" should more appropriately be replaced by the word "collated."

In regard to the cocaine estimates cited on page ii of the Digest and page 10 of the report, we suggest that GAO contact the Office of Drug Abuse Policy, as they recently produced a collation of estimates of cocaine and heroin consumption and production which we believe to be the best figures now available.

We appreciate the opportunity to present our comments and offer no objections to the publishing of the report with the above recommended changes.

Sincerely,


Acting Legislative Counsel


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cc:

SA/DO/O (Don Gregg)

C/PCS/NAR 

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